

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A system for mounting an accessory to a vehicle, comprising:

a linkage arrangement interconnected with the vehicle, wherein the linkage arrangement includes a pair of vertically spaced link members, wherein each link member defines an inner end and an outer end, wherein the outer ends of the link members are vertically spaced apart from each other;

a vertical pivot member mounted between the spaced apart outer ends of the link members, wherein the vertical pivot member defines a vertical pivot axis;

an accessory interconnected with the vertical pivot member so as to be suspended from the ground and supported solely by the linkage arrangement, wherein the accessory defines a working end spaced outwardly from the vertical pivot axis and is movable about the vertical pivot axis for movement between a first position and a second position relative to the linkage arrangement, wherein the working end of the accessory is located on a first side of the linkage arrangement when the accessory is in the first position and is located on a second side of the linkage arrangement, opposite the first side, when the accessory is in the second position; and

wherein the accessory is interconnected with the vertical pivot member via an accessory mounting arrangement defining an inner end interconnected with the vertical pivot member and an outer end to which the accessory is secured, wherein the accessory is located outwardly of the vertical pivot axis;

a linkage mounting arrangement interposed between the inner ends of the link members and the vehicle, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement defines a

horizontal axis pivot connection to which the inner end of each link member is secured;
and

25 a manually operated handle that can be raised and lowered to pivot the link members about the horizontal axis pivot connection;

 wherein pivoting movement of the link members about the horizontal axis pivot connection provides vertical movement of the link members and the vertical pivot member, and thereby the working end of the accessory, relative to the vehicle between a
30 raised position and a lowered position.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~2, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement is constructed and arranged to enable the linkage arrangement and the accessory to be moved about the second vertical pivot axis to either a first side of the vehicle or a second side of the vehicle.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~2, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement includes upper and lower mounting brackets interconnected with the vehicle, and vertically oriented pivot pins that pivotably mount the link members to the upper and lower mounting brackets for movement about the second vertical pivot
5 axis.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement includes upper and lower mounting plates pivotably secured to the upper and lower mounting brackets, respectively, via the vertically oriented pivot pins, and wherein each link member is secured to one of the mounting plates via a horizontally
5 oriented pivot pin that provides vertical pivoting movement of the link member relative to one of the upper and lower mounting brackets.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~2, wherein the vertical pivot member comprises a vertical pivot bar that extends between and interconnects the outer ends of the link members.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the vertical pivot bar extends through a cylindrical sleeve, and wherein the accessory is mounted to the cylindrical sleeve for movement about the vertical pivot axis.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~2, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement is mounted to the rear of the vehicle.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~2, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement is mounted to a side of the vehicle.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~21~~2, wherein the linkage arrangement includes a biasing arrangement for resiliently biasing the linkage arrangement toward the raised position.

11. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the biasing arrangement includes a biasing member interconnected between the linkage mounting arrangement and one of the link members, wherein the biasing member is configured to resiliently bias the linkage arrangement toward the raised position.

12. (Previously Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for mounting an accessory to a vehicle, comprising:

a linkage including a first link member and a second link member, wherein the first and second link members are vertically spaced apart and wherein each link member defines an inner end and an outer end, and wherein the link member inner ends are vertically spaced apart from each other and the link member outer ends are vertically spaced apart from each other;

a linkage mounting arrangement interconnected with the vehicle, wherein the inner end of each link member is connected to the linkage mounting arrangement, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement defines a first, vertical pivot axis and a second, horizontal pivot axis, wherein the first and second pivot axes are defined by first and second pivot members, respectively;

a vertical pivot member mounted between the spaced apart outer ends of the link members, wherein the vertical pivot member defines a third, vertical pivot axis, wherein the accessory is mountable to the vertical pivot member for connection to the vehicle through the first and second link members and the linkage mounting arrangement, wherein the accessory defines a working end spaced outwardly from the third, vertical pivot axis and is movable about the third, vertical pivot axis for movement between a first position and a second position relative to the linkage, wherein the working end of the accessory is located on a first side of the linkage when the accessory is in the first position and is located on a second side of the linkage, opposite the first side, when the accessory is in the second position; and

wherein the accessory is interconnectable with the vertical pivot member via an accessory mounting arrangement defining an inner end interconnected with the vertical pivot member and an outer end to which the accessory is secured, wherein the working end of the accessory is located outwardly of the accessory mounting member; and

a biasing member, interconnected between the linkage mounting arrangement and one of the link members, for resiliently biasing the linkage toward a raised position about the second axis.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the inner ends of the first and second link members are connected to respective first and second pivot plates, and wherein the second axis is defined by vertically aligned pivot pins forming a part of the linkage mounting arrangement, wherein the vertically aligned pivot pins extend through openings in the first and second pivot plates.

15. (Previously Canceled)

16. (Previously Canceled)

17. (Previously Canceled)

18. (Previously Canceled)

19. (Previously Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the linkage mounting arrangement includes a vertical axis pivot connection to which the inner end of each link member is secured, wherein the vertical axis pivot connection provides pivoting movement of the link members about a second vertical pivot axis spaced inwardly from the first-mentioned vertical pivot axis.

21. (Currently Canceled)

22. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the accessory is mountable to the vertical pivot member via an accessory mounting arrangement that is pivotable about the third, vertical pivot axis defined by the vertical pivot member.

23. (Previously Canceled)

24. (Previously Canceled)

25. (Previously Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, further comprising a brace that supports the handle and the accessory on the vertical pivot member.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the biasing member comprises a gas spring cylinder.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising a manually operated handle that can be raised and lowered to pivot the link members about the horizontal axis.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising a brace that supports the handle on the vertical pivot member.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the brace is also configured to support the accessory on the vertical pivot member so as to be suspended from the ground and supported solely by the linkage.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the biasing member comprises a gas spring cylinder.